

The Flying Badger

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee Wisconsin

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photo by Tech. Sgt. Pat Kuminecz

Capt. Mark Crudo, 440th Medical Squadron, serves as a guidon for the wing's change of command ceremony Oct. 23.

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New Inspector General will be the "eyes and ears" of the commander

by Lt. Col. Harry Heflin
440th Airlift Wing Inspector General

I became the 440th Airlift Wing's inspector general (IG) in August. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve the wing, as well as each of you, in this capacity.

Prior to becoming the wing inspector general, I was a member of the 34th Aerial Port Squadron (APS) and also served as the 34th APS commander for the last 28 months. For me, it was a privilege to have served with the best aerial port in AFRC. I would like to thank the men and women of the 34th APS for a job well done.

The role of the inspector general is a concept that is deeply embedded in federal law. The inspector general is responsible for inquiring into and reporting upon the discipline, efficiency and economy of the Air Force.

The primary role of this program is to help "sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring that existence of responsive complaint in-

vestigations and fraud, waste and abuse programs are characterized by objectivity, impartiality and integrity."

The inspector general complaint program is a leadership tool that indicates where command involvement is needed to correct problems in a system, program or procedure.

The IG also helps ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently. A good IG also helps create an atmosphere of trust in which issues can be objectively and fully resolved without fear of reprisal.

The role of the inspector general is to be the "eyes and ears" of the commander. The IG is supposed to keep the commander informed of potential areas of concern. The inspector general also serves as a fact-finder and "honest broker" in complaint resolution.

So if anyone out there has a complaint or an urgent problem that needs fixing; give me a call at 482-6025 or drop by my office, room 125 in building 102.

Lt. Gen. Bradley sends holiday greetings and thanks men and women of the Air Force Reserve for their service throughout the year

By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON - As we celebrate the holiday season and prepare for the challenges of 2005, I want to thank the men and women of Air Force Reserve Command for their dedication and service to our nation.

You have done everything our nation has called upon you to do. You guard the door, so we can enjoy the freedoms our country has to offer.

Many of you have been mobilized and separated from your families, friends and place of work. Others have volunteered to do your part in fighting the global war on terrorism.

Several hundred of you remain overseas, away from family and friends during this holiday season. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones at this time.

I commend all of you for putting service above self, for letting integrity and honor guide your actions and for striving to do the best in all you do. Your selfless acts of courage are an inspiration to us all.

When Jan and I count our blessings this year, the men and women of Air Force Reserve Command will top our list. You are the best.



AFRC photo

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

Happy holidays and have a safe and joyous New Year from the Bradley family. (AFRC News Service)

AFRC selects new command chief

By 1st Lt. Lance Patterson
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett will become Air Force Reserve Command's command chief master sergeant later this year, said AFRC officials Sept. 28.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Winsett from among 20 nominees for the position. Air Force reservists from all categories - traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, Air Reserve technicians and Active Guard Reserve members - applied for the command's top enlisted position.

Chief Winsett has been the command chief for 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, since May 2000. He will be the fourth command chief that AFRC has had since its inception as a major command in 1997 and the 12th person to hold the job in the Air Force Reserve since March 1973.

The position of AFRC command chief master sergeant is a 3-year controlled tour at Robins AFB. The duties involve communicating with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force and, in turn, ensuring the commander's policies are known and understood by the enlisted force.

"My concern is for the enlisted force and the utilization of the force," said Chief Winsett. "I anticipate working hard for the next 36 months ensuring the needs of the enlisted corps are met."

Chief Winsett will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl D. Adams, who has served as the AFRC

command chief master sergeant since February 2001. She was the first African-American woman to hold the title of command chief on active duty for a major command. Chief Adams is being considered for a position within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. If selected she will report for duty in the Pentagon as early as Dec. 1.

Chief Winsett entered the Air Force Reserve in 1981 after serving initially on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969 with tours in Berlin, Germany, and in the Republic of Vietnam.

His duties in the Air Force Reserve included assignments as an administrative specialist, military personnel flight specialist, group career advisor, first-sergeant and command chief master sergeant.

He served as the senior enlisted advisor for the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., before becoming the command chief for 10th Air Force.

In his civilian career, Chief Winsett worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and owned a consulting firm.

He retired from both occupations, devoting the last three years to full-time service in the Air Force Reserve.

Chief Winsett has lived in Lexana, Kan., since 1989 where he has been a traditional reservist.



AFRC photo

Chief Winsett recently replaced Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Adams as AFRC Command Chief.

He is married and the father of one daughter and two sons.

Chief Winsett holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and business and a master of arts degree in business and counseling. (AFRC News Service)

Stressed Airmen - Who's your wingman?

(Air Force News Service) Stress is nothing new to military life and there are many factors that contribute to this. But lately, stress has been taking its toll on our Airmen. Our suicide rate is skyrocketing while accidental deaths are more than 36 percent above what they were four years ago. We lost 57 people to suicide in the past year - a dramatic, and tragic, increase from last year. We lost another 99 Airmen to accidents. Combined, that's an order of magnitude greater than our combat losses in both Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11, 2001. We're causing ourselves more harm than the enemy. We must do a better job of looking after one another - be better wingmen.

November begins the busy holiday season. This is a time of celebration, but also a time when stress rises. Our major commands will be placing special emphasis on stress-related issues during

the month of November.

We will: reemphasize the support services available; review the signs of stress; and remind all Airmen what it means to look out for each other - to be good wingmen.

However, this problem cannot be solved through programs and training sessions alone. It's going to take an effort from the whole force, from our commanders and supervisors to every Airman in the force. It will take your total commitment.

Commanders - you bear the responsibility for the total welfare of our greatest asset - Airmen. You are responsible for their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. Use your base resources. You should know when your Airmen need help, and where to send them to get it.

Supervisors - you are our first line of defense. Like commanders, you are responsible for the well-being of the people you supervise. It is you

who look every Airman in the eye every day. It is you who can spot the first signs of trouble, and you who are in the best position to listen and engage.

Airmen - be good wingmen. Take care of yourself and those around you. Step in when your wingman needs help. Signs of stress and suicide should not be dismissed. Neither should senseless risks to life and limb because of improper safety and irresponsible behavior.

We need everyone's help on this. Take care of your wingmen on the ground so we can continue to confront America's enemies from air and space. Stress is not going away; it is a reality we must accept and manage. We are the world's greatest air and space power because of you, America's Airmen. The needless loss of one Airman is one loss too many. Look out for each other - look out for your wingman.

Memo improves job protection for Reservists

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Attorney General John Ashcroft and Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao signed a memorandum of understanding to protect the employment rights of men and women returning from military service.

The memorandum strengthens enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994, commonly known as USERRA. Congress passed the act to safeguard the employment rights and benefits of service members returning to civilian life.

"The brave men and women protected by USERRA voluntarily set aside the comforts of civilian life and stepped in harm's way," Ashcroft said. "We owe it to them to make sure that their employment rights and protections are fully and vigorously protected upon their return from military service."

Chao echoed the sentiment.

"Our military men and women have been there for us, so now it's our turn to step up our efforts for them," she said. "This agreement will strengthen enforcement of USERRA by ensuring faster resolution of USERRA cases and quicker enforcement action by the government when it is necessary."

The memorandum deals exclusively with each department's role and responsibilities in the enforcement of USERRA. The attorney general has delegated his USERRA responsibilities to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorneys' offices.

The Department of Labor has delegated its USERRA responsibilities to the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and the Office of the Solicitor.

The memorandum will streamline the enforcement process, allowing the two agencies to work closely and effectively to ensure the protection of USERRA rights.

When a complaint raises an "issue of immediate and significant harm" and each agency agrees that the complaint appears legitimate, it may be referred for enforcement immediately, officials explained. This prevents two agencies from working on the same issue, wasting time and resources.

In late September, the Department of Labor issued new regulations strengthening USERRA protections.

In addition to the new regulations, Chao and the DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Services have taken other steps to reduce the rate

of USERRA violations, to include:

- * Providing briefings to more than 158,000 service members and others on USERRA;
- * Responding to almost 26,000 requests for technical assistance;
- * Distributing more than 240 televised public service announcements, with a second announcement to be released shortly; and
- * Addressing most of the major human resource and employer organizations. (American Forces Press Service from a Department of Justice news release.)



For more information
about your rights call
1-800-336-4590 or visit
www.esgr.org



Staff Sgt. Evans shows off her Air Education and Training Command Commander's Award.

photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

"A" for the Day

Reservist captures coveted "commander's award" for stellar academics at tech school

Staff Sgt. Kathleen Evans, 440th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is no stranger to study.

She aced her way through technical school, proving she is an outstanding performer by earning 100 percent on all seven blocks of supply technical school.

"She was always prepared and met the challenges of the course," said her academic instructor in her evaluation report. The instructor added, "Beside being an outstanding performer. Tech. Sgt. Evans is always motivated, and helps out other students."

Evans took it upon herself to help mentor and tutor "pipeline" students that were having extreme difficulty grasping course concepts. Her efforts were cited as "long-last-

ing," and her tutoring helped increase her flight's academic standing. She also helped increase her fellow classmates' interest in the course.

Throughout the course, Evans maintained the highest academic standards, securing the title "honorary grad."

Her enthusiasm was noted by fellow students and the instructor. At graduation she was presented with the "commanders award" in addition to being named top student.

"We're extremely proud of Sergeant Evans," said 440th LRS Commander Maj. Joseph Almodovar. "She sets the bar high, and is continuing her excellent work back home here at our base."

Lasota Sholarship winners announced

by JoAnn Lindner and Melissa Kimball

The Aundria A. Lasota Memorial Scholarship Fund committee has announced that Gina Sobczak of 440th OSF and Joshua Armstrong of 440th MSS have been named as the recipients of the 2004 scholarships.

Sobczak has been part of the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) at the 440th since June 2001. She is currently pursuing a double major in education and history, and has hopes of becoming a social studies teacher and obtaining a master's degree. Upon hearing that she had received a scholarship, she was surprised and very pleased. Her supervisor, Lt. Col. Timothy Ward said, "She was a shoe-in to win this. She definitely deserves it because our unit wouldn't function as well because Gina is the glue that holds us together."

Armstrong has been part of the STEP program at the 440th since June 2001, working in Military Personnel. He is currently working towards computer degree. According to his

supervisor, Master Sgt. Tracy Vanenkenvoort, "He is very dedicated and one of the brightest assets to the office. Josh can do things with a computer that are really amazing."

Interested students apply by submitting a one to two page essay that includes their academic goals, an explanation of why the 440th STEP program is important to them, how their job at 440th enhances their career goals and how employment in the student program has helped them understand the mission of the 440th.

These essays are ranked by each panel member individually using an established ranking criteria form, and are scored based on the required content.

The scholarship fund was created in memory of Aundria A. Lasota, wife of Lt. Col. John Lasota, who died Aug. 2, 2002, to recognize a student in the 440th STEP program and to help that student attain his or her educational goal.

Per diem rate changes

The per diem rates for a number of travel locations were changed retroactive to Oct. 1. Travelers that received a payment on a voucher travel in Oct. 1 may have been paid at the wrong rate. Call the Finance Office at 482-5350 for more information. Per diem rates for these locations were changed:

Atlanta, Boston/Cambridge, Bridgeport/Danbury, Conn.; Cambridge/St. Michaels, Md.; Columbia, Md.; Denver and Jefferson County, Colo.; Fort Worth/Arlington, Texas; Frederick County, Md.; Grapevine, Texas; Gulf Shores, Ala.; Gwinnett County, Ga.; Kalamazoo/Battle Creek, (Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties) Mich.; Key West, Fla.; Manhattan, Brooklyn, The Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island, N.Y.; Middlesex County, Mass.; Minneapolis and St. Paul; Nashville, Tenn.; Orlando, Fla.; Philadelphia; Reno/Sparks, Nevada; St. Louis; Traverse City, Mich.; and Washington, D.C.

Winter weather information

Severe weather and emergency closings are part of winter in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan, where most of our wing members live and work. To find out if the 440th Airlift Wing has closed due to winter weather Airmen should check one of these media sources:

In Wisconsin: WTMJ-AM (620), WOKY (920), WISN (1130), WKTI-FM (94.5), WRIT-FM (95.7), WLTQ-FM (97.3), WKKV-FM (100.7), WMIL-FM (106.1), WTMJ-TV Channel 4 (NBC) and WISN-TV Channel 12 (ABC). Reservists can also check closing information at www.TheMilwaukeeChannel.com.

In northern Illinois: WGN-AM (720), WBBM-AM (780), CBS Channel 2, NBC Channel 5, ABC Channel 7, WGN Channel 9, WFLD Channel 32 and CLTV-Cable. Reservists can also check closing information at www.emergencyclosings.com.

New capability added to myPay

Restricted access personal identification numbers allow members to provide a spouse or trusted individual with a view-only PIN. This is a tool for deployed members. The member can set the RAPIN by signing into myPay and from the main menu and clicking on the "Personal Settings" page. Then click on the "Restricted Access PIN". Input the RAPIN and provide it to your spouse/trusted individual. For the spouse/family member to use the RAPIN, they simply sign into myPay with the member's SSN under "LoginID" and then enter the provided RAPIN. The RAPIN allows a spouse or family member to view and print leave and earning statements and W-2s.

Newcomers

The 440th welcomes the following reservists to the wing:

Lt. Col. Joseph Rallo	34 APS
Maj. Dana Davidson	440 MXS
Maj. Kevin Rourk	440 MDS
2nd Lt. Kristie Piotrowicz	95 AS
MSgt. Sandra Gonzalez	440 MDS
TSgt. Tyler Coddington	440 CES
TSgt. Gary Lane	440 MDS
TSgt. Mark Linday	440 ALCF
TSgt. Tuppen Weix	440 MDS
SSgt. Jason Bartol	440 MXS
SSgt. Paul Grabow	34 APS
SSgt. Phillip Stevens	440 CF
SrA Scott Fronek	440 CES
SrA Jeremy Gummin	440 LRS
SrA Joseph Homernik	440 MDS
SrA Marc Huguet	440 MXS
SrA Jared Juline	440 MDS
SrA Adam Paulsen	440 AW
SrA Ryan Sandee	440 MDS
SrA Brandon Stayner	440 AW
SrA Travis Velazquez	34 APS
A1C Timothy Blommel	440 MDS
A1C Devon Brilla	440 AW
A1C Adam Craft	440 CES
A1C Luis Cuevas Jr.	440 LRS
A1C Benjamin Doss	440 MXS
A1C Jay Ehlers	440 MDS
A1C Matthew Kenney	440 MXS
AB Kyle Kohnke	440 LRS
AB Ryan Marin	440 CES

CCAF Associates degree awarded

The following individuals have completed the requirements to receive an associates degree from the Community College of the Air Force:

Aviation Operations

TSgt. Brian Brzezinski 95 AS

Communications Applications Technology

SSgt. Christina Krug 440 OSF

SrA Matthew Kennedy 440 OSF

Criminal Justice

MSgt. Michael Snyder 440 SFS

Education and Training Management

SSgt. Kimberly Craddock 440 MSF

440th reservists, civilians and family members encouraged to donate blood

The wing's semi-annual blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4 in the wing auditorium, building 102. Reservists, civilians and their spouses are encouraged to donate blood.

"The holidays are always a critical time of year for blood supplies," said Mary Savarino, the blood drive organizer. "Many people put donations on hold because they are so busy. This can result in a temporary shortage of blood."

People who want to donate blood during the December UTA should contact Savarino at (414) 482-5440 or email the blood drive organizer at Mary.Savarino@generalmitchell.af.mil

Colonel Hart assumes command of 440th

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

Wing members gathered on Oct. 23 to welcome Col. Merle Hart as wing commander at the 440th Airlift Wing change of command ceremony.

Presiding over the day's event, Maj. Gen. James Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander, spoke of the wing's success and strengths and expressed certainty that the quality work will continue under the command of Colonel Hart.

"Colonel Hart is someone who will continue the tradition of excellence here at the 440th," General Bankers said. "Colonel Hart has a lot in common with each one of you. He's a selfless volunteer."

Hart was also welcomed by Congressman Paul Ryan and received a sincere welcome from the wing's retiring commander, Col. Michael Smith. Congressional representatives, among other distinguished guests, came not only to bestow best wishes to the incoming commander, but also to the commander he's replacing.

Airmen from all units were introduced to a leader that embodies one of the core values of the 440th – excellence in all we do.

Hart expects excellence and preparation from himself as well as each individual under his command. He stated that one should strive for excellence every day and that spirit and drive will spread to others. During his welcome, Hart said that luck does not exist, but rather comes to those who prepare.

"Some will call us lucky," Hart said. "but we'll have prepared to be great."

Hart looks forward to his role in the 440th Airlift Wing. He comes to Milwaukee from the 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls, NY where he was the operations group commander.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Pat Kuminecz

Col. Merle Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander



photo by Tech. Sgt. Pat Kuminecz

Members of the 440th Airlift Wing assemble for the Oct. 23 change of command ceremony held in the base maintenance hangar.

Insider's view

An exclusive interview with the new commander

by Senior Airman Deanne Perez

Would you please tell us about your background?

I enlisted out of high school, active duty and became a crypto technician – electronics background. I applied to go to college. Came back from Germany and was going to go to Penn State, but a lieutenant colonel talked me into staying in Utah. I went to college there and finished that up quick.

I was going to be a communications officer... I went back home [from Utah] and while I was back home, prior to going to Officer Training School, I got to talk to a local reserve unit. I signed up and they sent me off to navigation school and I became a reservist.

I was a traditional reservist pretty much the whole time. After the Gulf War, I was going to be an airline pilot, but then worked for an electronics company.

Then I started my own electronic engineering company and designed electronic sensors for the fuel industry. It grew, and I sold my company after about five years.



Col. Merle Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander, took time to talk with the Flying Badger staff during the October UTA.

What would you like 440th members to know about you?

I came up through the ranks, so as far as my demeanor – I think I have a lot of different thoughts about the Air Force. It's been a good opportunity. Basically, I feel I've had three careers: I was enlisted for about 8-and-a-half years – I've had an enlisted career, I've had a flying career and now I'm in the management section this time.

What are your expectations and what would you like to accomplish here?

I set a lot of high expectations in whatever I did. I still set high expectations on myself ... If I don't expect excellence of myself, how can I expect excellence of [others]?

Now that you're in Wisconsin, are you a Packer fan?

I remember Bart Starr...they were the kings. The Packers ruled. I've also rooted Brett Favre and "the Pack" on.

Colonel Merle Hart enlisted in the Air Force in 1973 and received his commission as a second lieutenant through Officer Training School in 1981. Colonel Hart is a native of Ellwood City, Penn., and was graduated from Brigham Young University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree.

Assignments

March 1974 - December 1974 Student, Electronic Crypto Technician School, Sheppard AFB, Texas	July 1983 - August 1997 Traditional reservist, 757 AS, 910 OSF, 910 AW, Youngstown ARS, Ohio
January 1975 - August 1977 Technician, 1964th Communications Group, Ramstein AB, Germany	August 1997 - January 1999 Tactics Officer, Chief of OSF, 910 AW, Youngstown ARS, Ohio
September 1977 - June 1980 408 CLSS, F-105, F-4 Aircraft Maintenance, Hill AFB, Utah	January 1999 - July 2001 Deputy Operations Group Commander 910 OG, Youngstown ARS, Ohio
June 1980 - October 1981 Officer Trainin School, Medina Annex, Lakland AFB, Texas	July 2001 - June 2002 Director of Operations, 757AS, 910 AW, Youngstown ARS, Ohio
November 1981 - March 1983 Student, Undergraduate and Advanced Navigation Training, Mather AFB, Calif.	June 2002 - October 2004 Commander, 914 Operations Group, 914 AW, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
April 1983 - July 1983 Student, C-130 training, Little Rock AFB, Ark.	October 2004 - Present Commander, 440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell IAP ARS, Wis.

Major Awards & Decorations

Bronze Star Medal
 Meritorious Service Medal, 2 oak leaf clusters
 Air Medal, 1 oak leaf cluster
 Aerial Achievement Medal, 2 oak leaf clusters
 Armed Forces Services Medal, 1 device
 AF Training Ribbon, 1 oak leaf cluster
 Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 1 oak leaf cluster
 AF Outstanding Unit Award, 2 oak leaf clusters
 Combat Readiness Medal, 8 oak leaf clusters
 Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal
 National Defense Service Medal, 2 devices
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, 1 device
 Air Force Commendation Medal, 1 oak leaf cluster
 AF Overseas Ribbon, Long
 AF Expeditionary Service Ribbon
 AF Longevity Service, 6 oak leaf clusters
 USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon
 Air Force Achievement Medal
 Kuwait Liberation Medal
 Humanitarian Service Medal, 2 devices
 Armed Forces Reserve Medal
 Global War on Terrorism Medal
 Southwest Asia Service Medal, 1 device
 Armed Forces Service Medal, 1 device
 AF Good Conduct Medal
 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

WISCONSIN MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Master Sgt. John H. Degroot
Graphics Technician
440th Communications Flight

Master Sgt. John H. Degroot has identified and reorganized the Visual Information section and repeatedly initiates fresh ideas in marketing the skills of the members of the Visual Information section to the wing to create opportunities for his staff. He personally developed and implemented a new training plan that included a major overhaul of poorly maintained training records for all Visual Information members. He was selected to lead a team that accompanied the 440th Security Forces Squadron on their annual tour to provide video and photo support. He produced an interactive CD ROM that recorded the annual tour as well as provided a valuable training source for new Security members that is still used today. By using photo and video input, he graphically documented the Communication Flight's annual tour using complex web based technology. Due to his leadership, he was requested by name to provide camera support to the 4th Combat Camera Sq. at March AFB, Calif. He has provided outstanding graphics support to the largest graphics shop in Europe, 786th Communications Squadron at Ramstein AFB, Germany, and the 99th Communications Squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev. He also negotiated the transfer of three excess high quality digital cameras from the 99th Communications Squadron VI to the 440th Communications Flight VI, giving these photographers over \$10,000 in assets at no cost to the unit. These efforts were appreciated and recognized by the 99th's NCOIC of Visual Information.

Staff Sgt. (now 2nd Lt.) Jeffrey A. Schoen
Public Affairs Technician
440th Airlift Wing

2nd Lieutenant Jeffrey A. Schoen developed a multi-media recruiting CD that involved hundreds of hours of labor and creativity to work with the recruiting office on base. This CD received high accolades for its innovative recruiting efforts targeted at Internet-savvy eligible recruits. As the project officer for this product, Schoen spent countless volunteer hours developing a tool that serves as the AFRC benchmark in spreading individual unit messages. On short notice, Schoen deployed to five Middle East countries in December 2002 and directed media and public affairs operations for a USO tour that had two nationally-known R&B artists. His efforts ensured thousands of activated Reserve and Guard members received a "morale boost" during the holidays, a critical time to motivate troops. In addition, he single-handedly arranged for interviews to take place via phone from the deployed location, further sharing the 440th mission with thousands of listeners in Wisconsin and Illinois. He served as a media relations liaison to the White House Communications staff for two presidential visits. Schoen was named a "Superior Performer" for his efforts in support of the 2000 ORE at Volk Field. He was involved in managing the media and community relations for the AFRC "Band Strike Package," a highly-interactive community relations event. He was a key contributor to the joint PA-Recruiting effort that later won an AFRC "Best Planned PA Program" and "Community Relations" Awards in 2000.

Staff Sgt. Tiffany N. Jones
C-130 H Loadmaster
95th Airlift Squadron

Staff Sgt. Tiffany N. Jones has been consistently recognized for her outstanding professionalism in the performance of her loadmaster duties. She has completed the Advanced Air Tactics Course where she was recognized by the school house cadre for outstanding work directing flight maneuver countermeasures against aggressor fighters during low level training. She received an "Aircraft Commander Report on Crewmember" for outstanding performance during a Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training Mission. This mission included airdropping loads to test U.S. experimental parachutes and guidance systems for high altitude containerized delivery system and heavy equipment delivery. She has flown as the primary loadmaster on two Coronet Oak deployments to South America in support of U.S. Army Special Forces and Navy SEALs counter drug efforts in Columbia and Peru. She was among the first loadmasters in the squadron to complete Night Vision Goggle (NVG) air-drop and air land qualification training. She was chosen to represent the Enlisted Air Crew members of the 95th Airlift Squadron at the Airlift Tanker Association national convention held in November 2002. She was selected as a deserving airman to represent the 95th Airlift Squadron and the 440th Airlift Wing at an informational seminar at the Pentagon in October 2002. She has volunteered and flew three incentive flights to promote the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program. These flights promote the Air Force Reserve to the local community and increase the status of citizen Airmen with their employers. She flew as a primary crew member for Operation Joint Forge 2003 and logged three combat missions into the Balkan combat zone, airlifting 72 passengers and 23,000 pounds of cargo. She also coordinated and performed off-load and on-load in a hostile fire zone at Pristina, Kosovo. On short notice, she performed a mission to airlift the Joint EUCOM Planning Group to Ankara, Turkey, to negotiate the use of Turkish bases and airspace in January 2003.



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

The winners (from left): Staff Sgt. (now 2nd Lt.) Jeff Schoen, Staff Sgt. Tiffany Jones, Senior Airman Malia Hoffman, Master Sgt. John Degroot, Master Sgt. Jeffrey Roeder and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Blaszk. Master Sgt. William Westling was not pictured because he was deployed.



The Wisconsin Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve sponsored the Wisconsin Achievement Awards. Eighty-seven Guard and Reserve members earned Wisconsin Achievement Awards in 2003 and 2004.

WISCONSIN MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Tech. Sgt. Christopher J. Blazek
Assistant Squad Leader
440th Security Forces Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Christopher J. Blazek was called to active duty by Presidential recall in support of Operation Noble Eagle. He was part of the first team to be deployed to Scott AFB, Ill., in support of Operation Noble Eagle, and voluntarily deployed on to Operation Southern Watch, which enforced United Nations resolutions as well as the No Fly Zone in southern Iraq. He provided supervision of security forces conducting physical security for Protection Level I and II aircraft directly responsible for enforcing the No Fly Zone in southern Iraq as well as the security forces responsible for protecting the largest War Reserve Material and Munitions Storage Area. He worked as support for the security forces that provided protection for U-2 reconnaissance aircraft in support of Operation Desert Image. He was selected from more than 400 deployed security force members to be the team leader assigned to secure a remote airfield in hostile territory in northern Afghanistan, and received the Air Expeditionary Medal for his outstanding support and service while assigned to the 363rd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. His leadership of the 363rd SFS aided the unit in being awarded the Outstanding Unit Award with Valor. He was selected as security forces flight leader for Operation Noble Eagle at Gen. Mitchell ARS. He has received an achievement medal for distinguished service during Operation Palmetto Ghost as well as an achievement medal for outstanding leadership in command and control during an Operational Readiness Inspection. He has been recognized by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department as an outstanding citizen after detaining two subjects attempting to break in to an auto, while he and a few others were off-duty.



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Senior Airman Lesley Carhart receives her Wisconsin Military Achievement Award from ESGR State Chair Jim Rebholz.

Master Sgt. William B. Westling
C-130 Flight Engineer
95th Airlift Squadron

Master Sgt. William Westling's outstanding initiative has enabled the 95th Airlift Squadron Flight Engineer section to be one of the most qualified and proficient night vision qualified units. Westling is the co-inventor and developer of the Night Vision Goggle Instrument Cover Kit which is used by the entire AMC C-130 force. He has received laudatory remarks from 22 AF/DOT for systems refresher class on hostile environment repair procedures directly impacting combat mission readiness for all AFRC assigned C-130 units. Before attending formal school, new flight engineer students are instructed by Master Sgt. Westling. He has experience with C-141 A and Bs, and C-130 Es, and H2s with more than 5400 flying hours. He was appointed wing refuel document control NCOIC, and oversees proper documentation and certification of funds expenditures for wing aircraft refueled at off-base locations worldwide. He was recognized by the commander as an outstanding performer during Provide Promise operations. He has taken part in eight Coronet Oak rotations, provided support for presidential directed counter drug programs, supporting multifaceted organizations to include the DEA, JTF-6 and Special Operations Command. He served on the advance team for the NATO exercise Battle Griffen, and is a six-time graduate of the Advance Airlift Tactical Training Center.

Senior Airman Malia M. Hoffmann
Ramp Specialist
34th Aerial Port Squadron

Senior Airman Malia M. Hoffmann is assigned to the Ramp Section. She operates aircraft loading and material handling equipment including the 60,000 pound "Tunner" aircraft loader. Based on her academic performance, Hoffmann was chosen as guidon bearer of the honor flight at basic training. She was also appointed class leader at Air Transportation Technical School. In addition to scheduled work during UTA's she has volunteered to work late for aircraft down loads.

She was chosen for the Norfolk Naval Air Station tour in the summer of 2003 and handled cargo in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Hoffmann has become proficient on the active duty aerial port GATES computer system. Currently a 6th grade teacher, she gives Air Force orientation talks to her students, and also works with the Air Force recruiter in the Green Bay area to contact high school students.

Master Sgt. Jeffrey S. Roeder
First Sergeant
440th Security Forces Squadron

Master Sgt. Jeffrey S. Roeder has been First Sergeant for the 440th Security Forces Squadron during the longest mobilization to date in the 440th airlift wing. He is the general supervisor of over 100 assigned enlisted personnel, sets proven standards, promotes welfare, health and morale. With only 24 hours notice, he was reassigned to the 95 AS from SFS to support the 95 AS mobilization. He executed the weighty responsibilities of tracking world wide deployment of Phoenix Ravens.

He was selected by the wing commander to represent the Air Force Reserve by testifying to the Milwaukee Metropolitan City Council members on military to civilian make-up pay and continuance of civilian healthcare benefits. He filled in, on short notice, as first sergeant for 200 deployed members, from a combination of five different Reserve and Guard units in support of Operation Joint Forge, Ramstein AB, Germany.

He was also appointed by the wing commander as the sole first sergeant to take part in the Military Equal Opportunity, 440 AW Climate Assessment Committee for the past three years. He also orchestrated the security measures for the President of the United States, Air Force One and Marine One during visits to the Milwaukee area.

Senior Airman Lesley K. Carhart
Navigations Systems Technician
440th Maintenance Group

Senior Airman Lesley K. Carhart is currently assigned to the Avionics Communications/ Navigations System Shop, where she performs scheduled maintenance, inspections and service to the wing's C-130s.

She is nearing completion of her level five skill level in this very demanding AFSC. She has completed more than half of the 90 critical items that are core tasks. She has also completed the challenge of organizing all the chemical warfare equipment for the UCI.

She successfully accomplishes multiple tasks during all UTAs, often volunteering for additional duties. She is clearly ranked in the top 10 junior airmen. She has exceeded inspection standards and performs "6 inspections" on the unit aircraft. She is advancing in upgrade training ahead of schedule. She is a candidate for Airman Leadership school in residence this summer.

The Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards articles were written by Melissa Kimball, a student hire with the 440th Public Affairs office. Kimball compiled the information from the award-winning nominations. Kimball is majoring in journalism at University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.

Fallen reservists honored

95th Airlift Wing reservists Technical Sergeants Vincent Bobowski and Brian Whiteside remembered by fellow aircrew members

by Master Sgt. (Ret.) Robert Reeve

The 440th Airlift Wing paid tribute to two fallen members in a moving 90-minute memorial service during the November UTA (Oct. 23).

Technical Sgts. Vincent Bobowski and Brian Whiteside, both 95th Airlift Squadron flight engineers, died in the crash of a small civilian airplane in Burlington on Sept. 30. Engine failure on take-off was cited as the cause.

Irony, along with tragedy, tinged their deaths. Both had returned unscathed from tours of duty in the violence-ridden Middle East; in Whiteside's case, only three weeks earlier. Bobowski came home last February.

In addition to their rank, AFSC and unit affiliation, they had other things in common. Both were Illinois residents - Bobowski of Huntley, Whiteside of Lake Zurich; both ultimately wound

up with the 440th after the last base realignment and closure round closed the 928th Airlift Group based at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, where each had been assigned. Both had an abiding interest in and love of aviation.

"We're here to remember our friends Vince and Brian, who left us way too early," said Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Green, 95th AS loadmaster, to begin the memorial service over which he presided. The 440th Honor Guard presented the colors, Amanda Burrows sang the National Anthem and Chaplain Capt. Derek Wolter gave welcoming remarks and the invocation. Technical Sgt. Lonnie Mattos, 95th AS flight engineer, read a reflection titled "We're Only in the Other Room," Burrows sang "Every Single Tear," and Master Sgt. Sun Wing Leung, 95th AS flight engineer, read another reflection titled "I'm Free." Wolter delivered a eulogy based on Psalm 46, which was

followed by a 10-minute slide show set to music and featuring scenes from Bobowski and Whiteside's military and civilian lives.

Maj. Tony Chosa, 95th AS navigator and aircrew member of Whiteside's, reflected on times and events they had shared and more than once punctuated his remarks with an emotion-laden "We miss you, Brian."

Jerry Fox, Federal Aviation Administration district supervisor and Bobowski's civilian job boss, spoke of their professional relationship and friendship. He said he was so shaken by Bobowski's death that he called his pastor for solace.

"(Pastor) said, 'You need to have an eternal perspective. Our stay on Earth is short (under any circumstances).'"

Master Sgt. Al Hurlbutt, 95th AS flight engineer, read Whiteside's biography. Whiteside, 37,



Tech. Sgt. Brian Whiteside posed for a photo with his wife, Linda.

photo submitted by 95th Airlift Squadron



Tech. Sgt. Vincent Bobowski posed in front of a C-130.

photo submitted by 95th Airlift Squadron

served six years on active duty, joined the Reserve in 1992 and the 440th in September '96. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a reservist. He was an FAA certified flight instructor pilot for Gateway Aviation Technical College as a civilian. He left a wife, Linda.

Capt. Mike Schmitz, 95th AS executive officer, read the citation accompanying the Meritorious Service Medal posthumously awarded to Whiteside and later did likewise for the MSM

and Air Medal posthumously awarded to Bobowski.

Master Sgt. Dan Anthenat, 95th AS flight engineer, read Bobowski's biography. Bobowski, 42, was an FAA aircraft safety inspector; served six years on active duty in the Navy; was an Illinois Air National Guard member for three years, and joined the 440th in June 1999.

Maj. Ken Baker, a bagpiper with the Air Force Reserve Command Band, played "Amaz-

ing Grace." The Honor Guard rendered a 21-gun salute. A trumpeter played "Taps." A similar slide show depicting different scenes from the deceased Airmen's lives concluded the service.

The service was staged in Hangar 217, and was attended by about 200 reservists, family members and friends of Bobowski and Whiteside. Milwaukee television stations also covered the event.

Reservists died while doing what they loved most -- flying

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* ran the following article about the plane crash that killed Technical Sgts. Whiteside and Bobowski (Sept. 20, 2004).

Town of Burlington - Three people were killed after a small commuter plane believed to be preparing for take-off crashed near the Burlington Municipal Airport, officials said.

The Racine County Sheriff's Department said the 1962 Beech B95A crashed in a marshy field near a residential neighborhood just south of the airport.

The privately owned airplane is registered with a Lake Geneva company, Airport Manager

Gary Meisner said. Authorities confirmed that three men were aboard the plane but did not release the victims' names.

Jake Remington, a spokesman for the airport, said authorities believe that the airplane was taking off when one of its engines malfunctioned.

"The aircraft was taking off, and we believe that it lost an engine," he said. "We don't know that for sure."

Meisner said the type of airplane that crashed is often used for training, and that could mean the victims were taking a flight lesson when the plane crashed.

The Federal Aviation Administration is han-

dling the investigation and were on the scene, sheriff's Lt. Connie Mallwitz said.

"Weather wasn't a factor; that's all we know," Meisner said.

The airport is owned by the City of Burlington and handles about 52,000 takeoffs and landings a year. About 100 planes are based at the airport, officials said.

Capt. Troy Everson with the Burlington Fire and Rescue Department said rescue workers were dispatched just before 4:30 p.m. and found the three male occupants of the plane dead at the scene. The plane was found upright but extensively damaged, Everson said.

LRS reservists return home after 50,000 miles of dangerous duty

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

With more than 56 years of combined service time, four 440th Logistics Readiness Squadron reservists deployed to Iraq January, uncertain about their future role in the war on terror.

Little did they know, the next eight months would be filled with danger, excitement and hope.

Master Sgt. Thomas Gudex, Tech. Sgt. James Kasprzak, and Senior Airmen Rusty Lison and Daniel Horn were activated to support a unit that replaced an Army transportation company. The unit was comprised of 150 military members from 25 states, including Air National Guard members and Air Force Reservists. Their assignment was to provide security for Army units transporting supplies, food and military personnel throughout Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Perched high above the ground on a pedestal atop a 5-ton truck, the reservists manned machine guns while they “provided cover” for the convoy truck drivers. The dangerous duty took them thousands of miles across the desert into all corners of the Sunni Triangle - a far cry from their mission back home.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think we

would be activated and deploying to Iraq and providing security to convoys,” said Horn, who has served five years with the 440th. “But it was a real mission that made a difference in the world.”

Kasprzak, on the other hand, was not surprised that the activation call came in. “I thought we might be deployed, but never expected to be providing security for convoys in Iraq.”

The reservists were part of convoys that transported anything from food and medical supplies, to fuel and 40-foot missiles. They traveled the dusty roads between Camp Speicher in Tikrit to Camp Anaconda, southeast of Balad, and even journeyed to the Turkish border and Syria.

The professionalism displayed by the four reservists helped them gain respect early on from their Army counterparts.

No time for fear

“You didn’t have time to be afraid,” said Gudex, who served as a convoy commander. “We were on the go, and had to remain alert at all times.”

Kasprzak agreed, saying “vigilance” made the difference between life and death.



photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

Master Sgt. Tom Gudex shows off his “Big Red 1” combat patch.

The desert roads were scattered with improvised explosive devices and bombs, often buried in the shoulder of the road. The frequent bombs and threats of ambush placed the reservists in critical roles as they protected the convoy.

Horn described his last convoy as one of the most dangerous.

“The convoy was hit with artillery rounds and shrapnel,” he said, describing the IED attack. “Initially, I heard a high pitch in my left ear, and then the vehicle shook. We had been going 60 miles an hour, and suddenly the Humvee behind us spun around 360 degrees.”

During the incident, shrapnel cut completely through the Humvee and blew out all four tires and glass. Horn said lives were saved because of the extra armor plates mounted on the side of the Humvee.

When an attack occurred, the reservists were responsible for securing the area, calling in the damage and getting the convoy moving again. A sitting convoy was considered a sitting target for insurgents.

Horn and Lison remember the time two explosives went off at once on the edge of the road.

“When the two went off, it created a big mushroom cloud,” said Lison. “A truck ahead us was hit and all its windows were completely



photo submitted

Sen. Airman Daniel Horn provided cover for U.S. military convoys in Iraq.

FROM THE FRONT

blown out, but we had to keep going. You can't really stop or you become completely vulnerable."

With more than 50,000 miles of terrain covered during their deployment, the odds of getting hit by an explosive were too high for comfort.

In one case, one of Lison's convoys took a wrong turn. Lison said the wrong turn probably saved their lives because a different convoy continued on the original road, only to be blown up 15 minutes later, with several military members dead and many injured. The reservists were well aware of the tenuous conditions. "If you didn't get hit (by an explosive) on any given day, you probably knew someone who did," said Horn.

It was this level of danger, and the reservists' professionalism, that helped them earn the "Big Red 1" combat patch from the First Infantry Division commander. The Big Red 1 Combat patch is awarded to members who serve with the 1st Infantry Division in the combat zone under fire.

When they first join the unit, military members wear the patch on their left arm representing their division. After 90 days, the members can move the combat patch to their right arm, symbolizing their commitment and hard work within a combat zone with the 1st Infantry Division.

The Big Red 1 patch on the right arm symbolizes a sense of pride and accomplishment. At the 90 day mark, the reservists were recognized in a military ceremony, something they will never forget.

The reservists will also remember the poor conditions in the country of Iraq.

"We have a lot to be thankful for back in the United States," said Gudex. "In Iraq, there is garbage all over, and a constant odor from oil fires and plastic burning."

The reservists recounted stories of seeing livestock and children scrounging in dumps looking for food. For many of the people, the scraps left from U.S. military troops were the best food they had ever eaten.

Gudex said they did see positive changes during their deployment. "I am confident we left the country in a better condition than when we arrived," he said. "It's just not always covered by the media, but I really do believe the Iraqi citizens are grateful - they just aren't always able to show it."

Anecdotally, Gudex recalled a meaningful moment etched in his memory.

"We were in an alley outside of Baghdad, and there were two women close by. As we passed them, they lifted up their burqas (Arab head coverings) and smiled, and gave us the peace sign."

As quickly as the women showed their support, they covered up their faces again before someone else saw what they had done. But the reservists got the message - their work was welcomed and appreciated - even without words.



Above: Senior Airman Rusty Lison "mans" a machine gun during a convoy.

photos submitted

Below: Tech. Sgt. James Kasprzak takes a break from the heat of the desert.



26.2 miles to go...

Reservists make a run for it in the AF Marathon



photo submitted

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

For the third year in a row, reservists from the 440th Airlift Wing joined thousands of Air Force members and civilians at Wright Patterson AFB for the 26.2 mile journey called the U.S. Air Force Marathon.

"Since (440th) reservists started running in the marathon several years ago, we have continued to see an annual increase in participation," said Maj. Therese Kern, chief of nursing. Kern, who also serves as the wing Fit to Fight coordinator, has organized 440th participation the last three years.

"Twenty-six point two miles is not as daunting when you run it as a team," said Kern. "We break it up into manageable legs ranging from five to seven miles, and the team element encourages runners to give it their all."

And they gave it their all. The 440th men's team took 10th place with a total time of three hours and three minutes.

Eight wing members participated in this year's marathon teams – enough for a men's and women's team. The teams reflected officer and enlisted reservists from different units across base. In addition, Tech. Sgt. Brian Smits, 440th Medical Squadron, finished his first half marathon, a coup in itself.

"We are really proud of Brian," said Kern. "This was his first big run, and unlike the teams, he had to run 13.1 miles by himself."

Created in 1998 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Air Force, the Air Force marathon has been flying high for eight years and Air Force Services Agency officials recently approved recognizing it as an official Air Force function.

The full marathon, team marathon and half marathon are open to Air Force members, Department of Defense employees and the public.

The 440th men's team (back row from left): Senior Airman Cotey Jordan (34th Aerial Port Squadron), Capt. Rajesh Santhoram (440th Medical Squadron), Senior Airman Jeff Baumberger (440th Maintenance Squadron) and Staff Sgt. Kenneth Long (440th Medical Squadron)

The 440th women's team (front row from left): Maj. Therese Kern (440th Medical Squadron), Staff Sgt. Christine Sneide (440th Military Personnel Flight), Master Sgt. Janet McKight (440th Medical Squadron) and Master Sgt. Devina Wells (440th Medical Squadron).

Operation "Lighten the Load" kicks-off

All 440th Airlift Wing Reservists who would like to lose weight and increase their awareness on how to reap the benefits of an overall healthy lifestyle, are eligible to take part in Operation Lighten the Load.

Operation Lighten the Load started Oct. 1 and goes through Sept. 30, 2005. 440th members who choose not to participate are encouraged to support their fellow reservists.

Under Operation Lighten the Load, Reservist will personally define short and long term wellness goals.

Reservists will report to their unit OLTL tracking station on Saturday morning during sign in of the Fiscal Year 2005 UTAs: Dec. 3, Jan. 8, March 5, April 9, April 30, June 4, July 16, Aug. 20, and Sept. 10.

Operation Lighten the Load tracking stations will be identified at all units with a poster size Fit to Fight Bucky Badger.

Reservists will only keep track of pounds lost from UTA to UTA, and then post the number of pounds lost in the appropriate area on the Operation Lighten the Load poster.

All Reservists in Operation Lighten the Load will have an opportunity each month to enter a drawing to win a prize, whether they had a loss or a gain for that month. A reservist who posts a loss for the month is entitled to two entries for the OLTL prize drawing.

All drawing entries will be collected by the unit first sergeants and entered in the appropriate group drawing (Mission Support Group, Logistics Group, Operations Group and Medical

Squadron). Winners will be selected during the first sergeants' Saturday meeting and will be announced Sunday morning of the same UTA. Prizes will be picked up from the winner's first sergeant.

Unit first sergeants will track weight loss using a spreadsheet on the Y drive.

Members will be able to track unit and wing weight loss by viewing a spreadsheet on the Inet, and watch for monthly Operation Lighten the Load highlights on both the Inet and Flying Badger.

According to OLTL organizers, if the wing succeeds in losing 5,000 pounds in 2005, the 440th will recognize Reservists and their achievements with a "huge celebration" during the September 2005 UTA.

Wing needs blood donors

Number of deployed reservists affecting participation



by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

The wing's semi-annual blood drive still needs volunteers to sign up for blood donations. In the past, the 440th has usually met or exceeded its quota for blood donations, but the large number of deployed reservists has affected donor numbers.

To make the situation even more challenging, some of the wing's regular donors are not able to donate blood under the guidelines enforced by the Southeastern Wisconsin Blood Center.

"We've had a number of reservists travel to unusual parts of the world that affect their ability to donate blood," said Mary Savarino, the 440th blood drive coordinator. Travel to certain locations eliminates eligibility for blood donors. For example, if you travel to a country where malaria is found, you have to wait a year to donate blood.

In addition, recent restrictions also consider the time a person has spent in certain European countries affected by Mad Cow Disease. For example, you are not eligible to donate blood if, since 1980, you spent a total time of three months or more in any of these countries: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar or the Channel Islands.

While the restrictions are designed to protect people who receive blood, it has also decreased the number of potential donors. Coupled with the large number of reservists deployed, the need for healthy donors is even higher.

"The holidays are a critical time for our nation's blood supply," said Savarino. "Donating blood is a wonderful way to give back to the community that supports the military. And who knows, the recipient might be someone you care about."

Reservists, family members and retirees are all encouraged to donate blood on Saturday of the December UTA. For more information, contact Mary Savarino at (414) 482-5482.

on the outside looking in

A monthly column for military spouses and family

Why doesn't the Base Exchange at Gen. Mitchell AFS have case lot sales like Fort McCoy and Great Lakes Naval Station do? These sales are a great way to save money.

We have good news for you! The Base Exchange will be having a case lot sale in May of 2005. Most case lot sales include items such as household paper products, laundry detergent, pet foods, baking mixes, personal grooming supplies, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal and much more. Information regarding what will be available here will be published at a later date in *Focus on the Families*, the Family Support Office quarterly newsletter.

What is set up for my spouse to stay in contact with me while he is deployed?

According to a 440th first sergeant who recently returned from deployment, all deployed members receive a "Right Start" briefing as part of their inprocessing shortly after they arrive at the operating location.

Each member is immediately given an e-mail address at the deployment location. Use of e-mail to stay in contact with friends and family is encouraged and computers are located at work stations and in many housing areas as well.

Members are also briefed that they are allowed two morale calls per week, up to fifteen minutes each. Phone calls are tracked by squadron leaders. If limits are abused, privileges can be lost.

Phone cards are provided, so cost to the member is not an issue. The number and length of calls has to be limited due to the number of personnel deployed and limited resources. The importance of communication with family is recognized, and every attempt is made to foster communication while still performing the mission.

On the outside - looking in is created for families of reservists. The column answers questions submitted by family members. Please submit your questions to Family Support Director Susan Knauer at (414) 482-5424 or 1-800-224-2744, or e-mail sknauer@generalmitchell.af.mil



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Aaron Burgstein

OVER IRAQ — Maj. Erik Thorell scans the horizon before landing in Iraq on Oct. 25. He is a pilot assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at a forward-deployed location. Major Thorell is deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom from the 440th Airlift Wing at the General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis.

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